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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of

Katsuo SHIBAHARA et al.

Serial No. 10/567,686

Filed February 9, 2006

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**Mail Stop: PCT**

Attorney Docket No. 2006-0150A

DYNAMIC PRESSURE BEARING UNIT

[Corresponding to PCT/JP2004/014138

Filed September 21, 2004]

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- ☒ each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication;
- ☐ each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/\_\_\_\_\_; and/or
- ☐ each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

**and thus no certification and/or fee is required.**

- 1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**  
(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

- 1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and  
the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

- a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or  
b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

- a. ☒ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
- b. ☒ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
- c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. ☒ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:

US 2002/0172438 corresponds to JP 2002-339957

US 2004/0114840 corresponds to JP 2002-310148

5. ☒ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Katsuo SHIBAHARA et al.

By



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May 10, 2006

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: May 10, 2006

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
2006-0150ASERIAL NO.  
10/567,686APPLICANT  
Katsuo SHIBAHARA et al.FILING DATE  
February 9, 2006

GROUP

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	2002/0172438	11/2002	Nakagawa et al.			
	AB	2004/0114840	6/2004	Gomyo			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AJ	2002-339957	11/2002	JP			X	
	AK	7-332353	12/1995	JP			X	
	AL	2002-310148	10/2002	JP			X	
	AM	2000-346060	12/2000	JP			X	
	AN							

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED